

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, On July 7, 1998, Pope John Paul II appointed Monsignor Blase J. Cupich of the Archdiocese of Omaha as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Rapid City and he was ordained on September 21, 1998; and,

Whereas, The Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich has served as the chief shepherd of Catholics in western South Dakota, teaching the gospel and thereby deepening the love of Christ and His teachings in the lives of the people, and sharing in their joys and sorrows; and,

Whereas, Under the leadership of the Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich, the diocese celebrated their centennial and benefited from his works including a written history entitled *We Walk by Faith* documenting the diocesan story, a millennium pilgrimage around the entire diocese, the reality of a priests' retirement home, the *Campaign for Excellence* for the Catholic school system, the creation of commissions and task forces to unite all people in the infinite beauty of Christ's peace and love, the development of the Terra Sancta project, and the *We Walk by Faith Special Appeal* to fund the project; and,

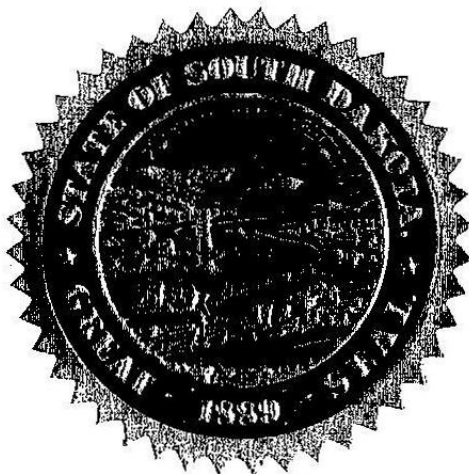
Whereas, On June 30, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI appointed the Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Spokane, Washington, with installation on September 3, 2010, causing his departure from the Diocese of Rapid City; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of the wonderful gift the Catholic Church has been given in the person of the Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich to the people of South Dakota for the last twelve years:

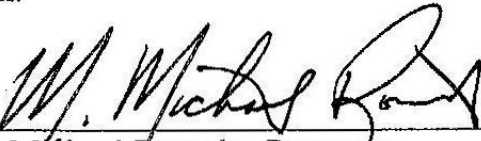
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 15, 2010, as

BISHOP BLASE J. CUPICH DAY


in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Ten.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State